

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

DEE ELLEN JENNINGS,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
vs.)	No. 3:17-CV-3470-B-BH
)	
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS,)	
)	
Defendants.)	Referred to U.S. Magistrate Judge

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION

By *Special Order 3-251*, this *pro se* case has been automatically referred for judicial screening. Based on the relevant filings and applicable law, the application should be denied, and the case should be dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court.

I. BACKGROUND

The plaintiff initially filed this action against the defendant on December 21, 2017, and moved for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP). (*See* docs. 3, 5.) Leave to proceed IFP was granted on December 26, 2017. (*See* doc. 6.) On December 28, 2017, the plaintiff was sent a Magistrate Judge's Questionnaire to obtain more information about her claims. (*See* doc. 7.) The questionnaire specifically advised the plaintiff that she must file a her answers within fourteen days, and that a failure to do so could result in the dismissal of her case. *Id.*

More than fourteen days from the date of the questionnaire have passed, but the plaintiff has not filed her answers or anything else in this case.

II. INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permits a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court. *McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835

F.2d 1126, 1127 (5th Cir. 1988) (§ 1983 prisoner action). This authority flows from a court's inherent power to control its docket, prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases, and avoid congested court calendars. *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962). The plaintiff failed to submit answers to the questionnaire despite a warning that failure to do so could result in dismissal of the case. Because the plaintiff failed to follow a court order or otherwise show that she intends to proceed with this case despite notice of the consequences of any failure to comply, it should be dismissed for failure to prosecute or follow orders.

III. RECOMMENDATION

This case should be dismissed without prejudice under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court, unless the plaintiff submits her questionnaire answers within the time for objecting to this recommendation, or some other deadline set by the court.

SO RECOMMENDED on this 31st day of January, 2018.


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of these findings, conclusions, and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of these findings, conclusions and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's findings, conclusions and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE